

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for bending a substantially plate-shaped, thermoplastic workpiece, comprising the steps of:
heating a bending region of the workpiece at least up to plasticization;
inserting a bending element into the workpiece up to an apex of a desired bend; and
bending the bending region about the bending element acting on the workpiece about a front end, relative to an insertion direction, of the inserted bending element; and moving the bending element out of the workpiece after the bending step.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the workpiece includes a sandwich panel.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of heating the bending element.
4. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: for bending a substantially plate-shaped, thermoplastic workpiece, comprising the steps of:
heating a bending region of the workpiece at least up to plasticization;
inserting a bending element into the workpiece up to an apex of a desired bend;
bending the bending region about the bending element acting on the workpiece about a front end, relative to an insertion direction, of the inserted bending element;
moving the bending element out of the workpiece after the bending step; and
sealing a gap that was created in the workpiece by the bending element in the inserting step.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating the heating, inserting and bending steps a plurality of times at various locations along the workpiece to generate a polyline.
6. (Withdrawn) A bending arrangement for hot bending a thermoplastic workpiece by a method that includes the steps heating a bending region of the workpiece at least up to plasticization, inserting a bending element into the workpiece up to an apex of a desired bend and bending the bending region about the bending element acting on the workpiece about a front end, relative to an insertion direction, of the inserted bending element, comprising:

a bending element heatable at least in a region configured to penetrate the workpiece and having a suitable shape configured for insertion into the at least plasticized workpiece.

7. (Withdrawn) The arrangement according to claim 6, wherein the bending element includes at least one of a flat bar and a tube.

8. (New) A method for bending a substantially plate-shaped, thermoplastic workpiece, comprising the steps of:

- heating a bending region of the workpiece at least up to plasticization;
- inserting a bending element into the workpiece up to an apex of a desired bend;
- bending the bending region about the bending element acting on the workpiece about a front end, relative to an insertion direction, of the inserted bending element; and
- moving the bending element out of the workpiece after the bending step while further bending the workpiece to seal a gap that was created in the workpiece by the bending element in the inserting step and such that lateral sides of the workpiece to either side of the gap are guided together behind the bending element moving out of the workpiece.